

THE LONDON CONFERENCE OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

February 23—March 2, 1946

**The American
Jewish Committee**

386 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.



The London Conference of Jewish Organizations

I. Reason for the Conference

It is scarcely necessary to recapitulate the effect of the war just ended on the Jewish communities of continental Europe. Between the English Channel and the pre-war boundaries of Russia, there were before the war seven million European Jews. Perhaps a million and a half remain. The largest Jewish community of pre-war Europe, that of Poland, has lost nine-tenths of its members, and of the survivors, only a fraction remain in Poland. The once proud Jewish community of Germany has been reduced to a handful. Other Jewish communities have suffered, less perhaps than these two, but nevertheless on a fantastic scale.

Nor is the lot of the survivors an enviable one. Their property has been confiscated and dissipated by the fascist regimes. Their positions have been destroyed. Their occupations have disappeared. They have been uprooted from the homes of their ancestors and scattered from one end of Europe to the other. Their charitable and cultural institutions, the products of centuries of patient labor, have been destroyed together with the communities which gave them birth. The entire basis

of Jewish life in large parts of Europe has collapsed under the weight of war and Nazi oppression.

The liberation of Europe made it possible to begin the reconstruction of the lives of Nazism's surviving Jewish victims. But it did not automatically achieve that reconstruction. In large parts of Europe, Jews returned from concentration camps, only to find themselves homeless and penniless, ragged and starving, unable to secure employment and faced with virulent anti-Semitism. Many thousands in Nazi prison camps throughout Europe had little desire to return to the countries of their origin, where their friends and families had been slaughtered.

It was essential that some means be worked out for the resettlement, particularly of those Jews who had been displaced, but also of those who felt that due to past persecutions and present anti-Semitism they could no longer live in their native countries. This required a study of the possibilities of migration; and in particular it made necessary the revocation of the 1939 British White Paper on Palestine. And until it was possible to remove the displaced and persecuted Jews from Europe to new homes, there was much to be done to enable them to live as nearly as possible like human beings where they were, and to reacquire lost skills and reconstruct again their religious, cultural, and personal lives. All of this required action on an international scale.

Those Jews who desired to remain in their own countries, or who returned to them from imprisonment abroad, had first of all to find some means of livelihood. They needed employment, the restitution of their homes and properties, assistance of every sort. But they needed more besides. They had to regain the place in society from which they had been expelled by the policies of the Nazis. And they had to rebuild the communal and cultural life and institutions which had been destroyed in the course of the occupation.

The rehabilitation of Europe's Jews was a task beyond the capacity of any private agency, although such agencies could and did have a major role to play. It required the cooperation of governments, both those of the various countries in which the surviving European Jews found themselves, and those of the other nations of the world. For migration and resettlement were obviously problems which involved the countries of immigration as well as those from which it was likely that emigration would take place. Restitution and indemnification had to be dealt with by Allied occupation authorities, as well as by the various national governments of Europe. The extension of human rights, without which any other gains would necessarily be short-lived and of little value, required international action. So did the problem of securing the allocation to Jewish victims of fascism of a portion of the reparations received from enemy countries. And the peace treaties about to be drawn up required the careful attention of Jews the world over, because of the many questions with which they would deal which would have a major effect on the future of men everywhere. All these questions were international in scope; hence it was desirable that on all of them there should be the closest possible consultation and the greatest possible measure of agreement among the Jewish communities of the various countries.

In most of the countries of Western Europe, the Jewish communities remained sufficiently strong to meet their most elementary needs, though even here their sufferings could not be fully repaired without outside aid. But few of the Jewish communities of Central and Eastern Europe were in a position even to begin the task of reconstruction unaided.

In this situation a special responsibility fell on the Jewish communities of the British Commonwealth and the Americas, and especially on the two largest of these, the Jewish communities of the United States and the United Kingdom. These

communities had come through the war with their positions relatively undamaged. They have played their part in the war and shared the sacrifices of their countries; but they have not been singled out to suffer as were the Jewish communities of continental Europe.

Hence it is to them that European Jewry has looked for assistance in its rehabilitation. And these communities have in turn been anxious to play an active role in aiding their less fortunate brothers, whose sufferings they have felt deeply although not sharing their full weight. They have understood, too, that more was needed than mere material aid, and that no measures which were not the result of the fullest consultation with the European Jewish communities could effectively meet the needs of these communities.

Recognizing the need for joint action, both with each other and with the Jewish communities of continental Europe, the American Jewish Committee and the leading organizations of British Jewry took steps to secure closer cooperation among all Jewish communities. In this they were motivated, too, by their recognition that anti-Semitism was an international problem, and had to be fought—as it was propagated—internationally. For the international anti-Semitic movement existed before Hitler and helped to create him, and it became in its turn the agent of his conspiracy against civilization. Nor has it by any means been completely destroyed by his fall. In every country formerly occupied by the Nazis their policies have created vested interests. And these beneficiaries of Nazism still seek to maintain their ill-won gains by fostering and propagating anti-Semitism.

As a result of this recognition of the need for closer cooperation among the Jewish communities of the world, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the American Jewish Committee took the lead, early this year, in sponsoring an interna-

tional conference of Jewish organizations. This conference met in London from February 23 through March 2, 1946.

II. Scope, Purposes, and Procedure of the London Conference

The London Conference of Jewish Organizations was called in response to the needs of a specific situation. In his opening address Mr. Leonard Stein, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, made it clear that the conference was not intended to result in the establishment of a permanent organization of world Jewry, or to pass resolutions binding on the participating groups. Rather it was intended to explore the possibilities of closer cooperation on the basis of the most complete autonomy of the various national groups, and to find the maximum common basis of agreement in terms of which such cooperation would take place.

The purpose and scope of the conference were well described by Mr. Jacob Blaustein, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, who headed its delegation, in his introductory remarks. He said:

"The suffering of the Jews of Europe in the period through which we have just passed is unparalleled even in that long record of suffering which unfortunately is the history of the people of Israel; and while the Jews of America have been spared the actual horror through which the Jews of Europe have gone, I assure you the Jews of America have felt its tragedy in their souls and want to help do something about it. . . .

"We hope at this Conference to sit down with the delegates and consider the problems which face us—they face us all—in order that we may co-ordinate our thinking and, where possible, our efforts to solve them. We wish to analyze with you delegates the questions involved in the

economic and political rehabilitation of European Jewry, both in the countries of Europe (for those who wish to remain there) and elsewhere (for those who feel that they must emigrate). We want to determine, among other things, as you do, what assistance the Jews of America and elsewhere can give to their European brothers in these problems, and in the reconstruction of their communal and cultural life.

"We are all especially concerned with improving the status of the displaced Jews in Germany and Austria, as well as the status of those Jews in their own countries who have not yet been successfully re-established therein; and in assisting the migration to Palestine, the United States, and other countries of those who cannot or do not want to remain in Europe.

"We expect to exchange information which may permit drawing up programs of parallel actions for the more effective restitution of Jewish property, and indemnification of the losses suffered by Jews in the various countries of Europe; and what is most important, for the fight against anti-Semitism wherever it may continue or raise its ugly head, for upon that, in large measures, depends our future happiness or woe.

"We shall consult on the special problems of the Jewish communities in Latin America, including the role that they may play in assisting in the resettlement of uprooted European Jews.

"And finally, we shall discuss the United Nations Organization, the peace treaties, and those general problems of human rights in which the Jews of the world have so great a stake.

"Some of the matters which we shall consider are specifically Jewish problems; others are questions which affect all

mankind. But in both, Jews have a special interest; for the sufferings of European Jewry under the Nazi heel have clearly shown that when human rights are violated, the rights of Jews suffer first and most."

On this basis and for these common purposes there assembled in London a broadly representative group. All shades of Jewish opinion—both on Jewish matters and on general political questions—were represented. Orthodox and Reform Jews, official Zionists and Revisionists, non-Zionists and anti-Zionists—all were present. Delegates attended from 13 countries (Algeria, and Tunisia, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States). The displaced Jews in Germany were also represented. Delegations from four other countries—Hungary, Rumania, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia—had planned to attend but were prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond their control.

In the discussion of the issues which comprised the agenda of the conference all points of view were presented and given the fullest consideration. The delegations from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States had prepared studies on the principal problems which were to come before the conference. (Those of the American Jewish Committee are contained in *Toward Peace and Equity*, which was available to the delegates both in the original English and in a French translation.) These studies were submitted to the delegates for their information and consideration and were of value in the ensuing discussions.

Discussion leaders introduced the various problems, and delegates then took the floor to present their views. No resolutions were adopted or binding decisions made, but a Program Committee was appointed and given the task of summarizing the discussions and indicating the scope of general agreement. The implementation of the Committee's recommendations

was left to the various national groups attending the conference. It was therefore agreed that the Anglo-Jewish Association and the London office of the American Jewish Committee would act as a clearing center for the development of further parallel action by the various groups.

III. Highlights of the Conference

Among the most interesting and valuable features of the conference were the reports of the various delegations. These reports portraying as they did the status of Jews in all major respects in the countries represented, were of inestimable value in the development of a common program.

In general, they indicated that the status of Jews in the countries of Western Europe had been far more nearly restored to normal than in those of Eastern Europe. Thus both the French and Belgian delegations reported that restitution and rehabilitation had on the whole progressed satisfactorily in their countries, and that there was little anti-Semitism, despite certain temporary manifestations which had been repressed by the governments. They told, too, of the assistance which French and Belgian Gentiles had given to Jews during the Nazi occupation, and emphasized the importance which this had had in preserving the existence of their communities. This assistance had come from all sections of society, and in particular from both Catholic and Protestant clergy and from the workers and universities. On their side, the Jews had contributed far more than their proportionate share to the membership of the resistance movements.

In both Belgium and France, it was emphasized, Jews were fully accepted as citizens, and there was no distinction made between them and their gentile compatriots. Few Jewish citizens of either country had any desire to emigrate. This did not, however, apply to the numerous Jewish refugees, particularly in Belgium, for whom it was necessary to find opportunities of emigration. Most of these desired to go to either Palestine

or the United States. Due to their temporary status, many of these refugees had been unable to integrate themselves into the economic life of the country and stood in need of material assistance, in which the Joint Distribution Committee had played an especially significant part.

Delegates from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, described the failure of Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda to make serious headway among the Moslem populations of those countries. It was reported, however, that because of the theocratic nature of the Moroccan state Jews there still suffered under serious legal disadvantages, and suggestions were offered for the improvement of their position by the institution of secular courts and the recognition of the right of Jewish organizations to represent the Jewish community officially.

There were less encouraging reports from other parts of Europe. Four-fifths of the Jews of the Netherlands had perished; half the survivors were in need of relief. Dr. Leo Baeck, former Chief Rabbi of Berlin, described the destruction by the Nazis of centers of Jewish learning and cultural life. He urged the conference to take steps for the rebuilding of the great cultural centers that had been destroyed. Dr. Baeck emphasized, too, that it was essential to secure access to Palestine for the large number of European Jews who felt forced to emigrate. Additional point was given to Dr. Baeck's remarks by a report from the surviving German Jewish communities on the problems facing them in the reconstruction of their lives.

The Jewish communities of Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Rumania were unrepresented at the conference. But delegates were present from the Jewish communities of Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and they made it clear that despite the friendly attitude of the present regimes in those countries, the position of the Jews in them had suffered materially as a result of the war and the Nazi occupation.

In Bulgaria, most of the Jews had been saved by the solidarity of the general population. But they had been imprisoned in concentration camps, and had in many cases returned to poverty and hunger. For the first time in its history, the Bulgarian Jewish community, which had always helped others, felt forced to ask for help.

In Czechoslovakia, the attitude of the central government had been very favorable to the speedy restoration of Jewish rights. But unfortunately the lower ranks of officialdom frequently failed to practice the policies established by the central government, and the lot of Czechoslovak Jews was therefore by no means uniformly satisfactory. The position of the Jews was especially unfavorable in Slovakia, where restitution had lagged seriously.

In general, it was indicated that far more Jews would be likely to wish to emigrate from the countries of Eastern Europe than from those of the West. And these countries, too, presented the greatest problems in respect to residual and reviving anti-Semitism, as well as in such immediate questions as restitution.

IV. Conclusions of the Conference

The deliberations of the conference were summarized and its area of agreement outlined in the report of the Program Committee, under the chairmanship of Alan M. Stroock, vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee. One of the most important recommendations of the committee was that a conference be called in the near future to take steps towards the reconstruction of the educational and cultural life of European Jewry. Another field in which continuing international action was envisaged was the struggle against anti-Semitism. Here the committee proposed the creation of a central service for clearing information on anti-Semitic activities and methods of combating them, and

for the purpose of a tending aid where necessary in the fight against anti-Semitism. It was emphasized that the question of anti-Semitism was one involving the welfare not only of Jews, but of their respective nations as a whole, and that it was essential to stress at all times that Jews were not asking for tolerance, but that Jews and Gentiles together were fighting a common enemy.

On the question of human rights, the Program Committee hailed the recognition of these rights in the Charter of the United Nations, but emphasized that this was merely a first step. It declared that the Jewish communities should work to secure the inclusion in the constitutions of their respective countries of guarantees for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to persuade these countries to support the adoption of an International Bill of Rights which, through the United Nations, would serve to guarantee these rights effectively, if necessary with the aid of sanctions.

In connection with the Peace Treaties to be concluded with the former enemy countries, it was recommended that jurists expand and develop the proposals of the American Jewish Committee (in *Toward Peace and Equity*) for provisions to be included in these treaties.

The committee urged that qualified Jewish organizations make specific recommendations as to the most effective use of the sum of \$30,000,000 set aside from German reparations for the rehabilitation of victims of Nazism. The uneven and in many countries inadequate provision for restitution of Nazi confiscated property was noted with regret. A subcommittee on restitution and reparation recommended that the Jewish communities of France, the United Kingdom, and the United States intervene with their respective governments to induce them to take effective action for the restitution of Jewish property in Germany and Austria, and that representatives of the

Jewish communities affected be recognized by the military authorities in matters concerning Jewish communal property.

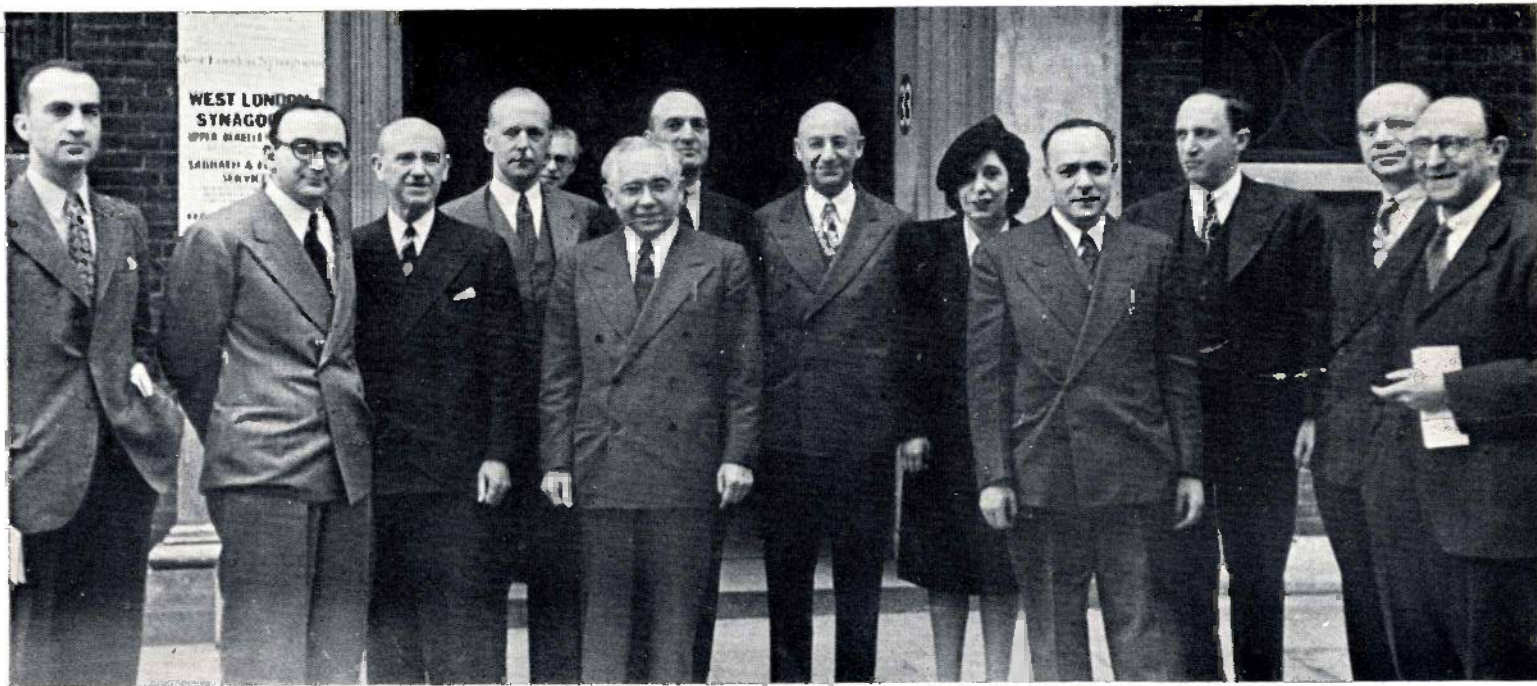
Recognizing that the problem of the Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria is perhaps the most serious one facing the Jews of the world today, the subcommittee on Displaced Persons recommended that the various Jewish organizations continue their efforts to secure the opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration, and that steps also be taken to facilitate their admission to the various other countries of immigration.

A special problem which had arisen was that of war orphans. The subcommittee appointed to consider this problem urged that steps be taken to provide for the care of these orphans in homes where they would be brought up in their traditional environment, and where it was impossible to make adequate provision for their care in the countries where they were at present located, that their emigration to Palestine or other countries prepared to accept them should be encouraged.

In respect to Palestine the committee reported that, despite the wide variety of viewpoints represented, there was general agreement on the necessity of reopening Palestine to large-scale Jewish immigration and removing present restrictions on the sale, purchase, and development of land.

V. The Accomplishments of the Conference

The greatest achievement of the London Conference of Jewish Organizations was that it brought together Jews of many nations and many points of view, and demonstrated that they could cooperate harmoniously in meeting the tremendous problems facing them. It proved that, despite ideological differences, there exists a broad area of agreement in terms of which joint action of a practical nature is possible. It showed that differences could be expressed and agreement obtained without the sacrifice of principle. And it laid the ground for future common action.



The American Jewish Committee

Simon Segal; Jerome J. Rothschild; Richard C. Rothschild;
John Slawson; Edward A. Norman; Jacob Blaustein; Rayle Schupper;
Zachariah Shuster; Alan M. Stroock; George Mintzer; Max Gottschalk.



Upper Left: The Belgian Delegates with Leonard Stein: (Left to Right) Ghert Jospa; Leonard Stein; Paul Philippson; General Ernest E. Weiner; Jules Bloch.

Lower Left: The Bulgarian and Czech Delegates (Left to Right) I. Semoff (Bulgaria); David Jeroham (Bulgaria); Frantisek Fuchs (Czechoslovakia); Isaac Fransez (Bulgaria).

Upper Right: The Netherlands Delegates (Left to Right) Dr. S. Kleerekoper; Mrs. J. Nordheim; Samuel Eisenman.

Middle Right: The Swedish Delegates, John Philipson; Gunnar Josephson.

Lower Right: The Argentine Delegates, Rabbi Williamano Schlesinger; Jedidio Ephron.



The Anglo-Jewish Association:

(Left to right) Sir Robert Waley Cohen; Leonard Stein;
E. F. Q. Henriques and (rear right) Sefton D. Temkin.



The French Delegates:

(Front row, left to right) Pierre Geismar; Maurice Vanikoff;
Judge Leon Meiss; Julian Gozlan; Henri Braun; Raymond Geissman.

(Rear row) Jules Braunschvig; Louis Oungre, Judge Leon Lyon-
Caen; Professor Ichona Allouche.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Conference met fully conscious of the gravity of the situation in world and Jewish history. Our people have suffered in all countries overrun by Hitler and his satellites. The majority of the Jews on the European continent have been exterminated, and most of the survivors despoiled. We realize that our means to remedy the situation are limited, and that Jewish effort alone can not restore the position of the Jews on the European continent. The support and cooperation of all democratic elements is needed even to begin to face the problems confronting the Jews in Europe, and this Conference is confident that such support will be forthcoming.

The last decade has demonstrated that those who seek to assault civilization start by attacking the Jews, but that Jews are only the first. The question of the Jewish position in the world, therefore, is not a question for the Jews alone; it is a problem of the greatest importance for all who seek to preserve the essentials of civilization.

However, the Jewish communities cannot fail to realize that close cooperation between them and similar action in their respective countries may have salutary effects on existing conditions and may influence their non-Jewish fellow citizens. In this belief the Anglo-Jewish Association and the American Jewish Committee initiated this Conference of Jewish Organizations, to which they invited groups of all shades of opinion. The purpose of the Conference, as indicated in the original invitation, and as re-affirmed by the terms of reference accepted by the Conference itself, was to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views and information between the Jewish communities concerned, in the hope that this might facilitate a constructive approach to the urgent problems which face us.

During this Conference, we have had a fruitful and constructive exchange of views. We have received information and heard points of view which have helped greatly to increase our understanding of each others' problems, and which will contribute to a much closer contact between our respective organizations and communities.

The Conference has been successful in this respect because it gave us the opportunity to listen to men who are leaders in their communi-

ties, and who represent different points of view in Jewish life. Jews of many shades of political opinion, Zionists and non-Zionists, Agudists and Reform Jews, all had—and availed themselves of—the fullest opportunity of expressing their views and exchanging opinions. We think it is a tribute to the members of the Conference that during the whole week of deliberation all these elements could continue discussions on the highest plane and with a common desire to arrive at the largest possible measure of agreement.

The initiators of this Conference suggested from the beginning, and the Conference itself agreed, that no formal binding resolutions should be voted upon, and that no count of majorities or minorities should be taken. We have not proposed to set up any international Jewish super-body claiming to speak in the name of the individual Jewish communities in the respective countries. Whatever suggestions arise out of this Conference will be submitted to the various communities, which will decide by themselves whether they think it wise to consult with the other communities along the lines suggested. If communities desire to cooperate with each other in specific matters, they should communicate with the Anglo-Jewish Association, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1., or with the London Office of the American Jewish Committee, 25, Old Burlington Street, W.1.

The Future of European Jewry

We were privileged at this Conference to have the cooperation of representatives of the Jewish central bodies of Australia, Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Morocco, Sweden, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom; in addition, delegates were present from organizations of Argentina and France and of the displaced persons in Germany, as well as the two sponsoring organizations, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the American Jewish Committee.

The discussion on the situation of European Jewry and its future attained a particularly authoritative character, by virtue of the participation of leaders of European Jewish communities. A great variety of conditions was revealed, and some presentations gave us hope that a large number of Jews will be in a position to reintegrate themselves into the national life of their countries.

However great have been the ravages of the Hitlerite regime upon the Jewish communities in Western Europe, the reports from Belgium and France showed that those countries have not forgotten their democratic traditions, and that large sections of their inhabitants contributed during the occupation itself to the saving of thousands of Jews, often at the risk of their own lives. The present regimes in

those countries are sympathetic to the Jews, and are trying to correct the injustices done to them during the last few years. Nevertheless, the problems are still very grave. Nazi propaganda has left its mark and only an extensive campaign of democratic education can erase the anti-Semitism which it has left in its wake.

In North Africa many influential Arabs refused to accept the Vichy propaganda. This is important, not only for North African Jewry, but also as demonstrating the possibility of peaceful cooperation between Arab and Jew. There is need for more schools for Jews, better living conditions and greater participation in the judiciary.

The question of restitution of property, especially in the period immediately following liberation, presented a grave problem in view of the reluctance of those who had come into possession of property to surrender it. The position of foreign Jews on temporary visas, especially those in Belgium, presents a special problem.

A similar picture was presented by the representatives of the Bulgarian Jewish community, who strongly praised the attitude both of the non-Jewish population during the war, and of the present authorities. Some indirect information was given to the Conference on the situation in Greece, Rumania and Yugoslavia. The situation of the Balkan countries in general is extremely difficult, and that of the Jews even more so. Economically the Jews are greatly impoverished, and politically anti-Semitism is still a dangerous poison. Large-scale emigration will be necessary, and it is still to be seen whether any considerable number of Jews will be in a position to regain their stolen property and their economic opportunities. In Czechoslovakia, the Jewish communities of Bohemia and Moravia on the one hand, and Slovakia on the other, are separately organized. In Slovakia, the Jews still have not regained any of their property, despite the efforts of the Central Government.

A distressing picture was presented by the delegation from Holland, eighty per cent of whose Jews were exterminated by the Nazis. In all countries an important problem is presented by the existence of thousands of orphaned Jewish children, some of whom are under the care of Jewish organizations, but many of whom have been hidden by Christian families and have still not been returned to the Jewish communities. The problem of the refugees in Western Europe and in former neutral countries such as Sweden requires prompt action.

In all countries where Jewish life has been re-established there is a greater consciousness on the part of individual Jews of their heritage and their mission in the world. Important activities against anti-Semitism are being undertaken, and Jewish cultural and educational

institutions are again beginning to exert a real influence upon the youth and children. However, most of the European Jewish communities are now too weak economically and too small numerically to be able to face the problems themselves, and help from the other Jewish communities, especially from the United States and Great Britain, is absolutely essential for their survival. All reports greatly stressed the help already received, especially through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Central British Fund.

The Conference heard most interesting reports on the situation of the Jews in Argentina. Active communal and cultural institutions have grown up in Argentina and an important agricultural settlement has been created. The Argentine Jewish community is today one of the largest in the world. It is anxious to expand its contacts with the Jewish communities of other countries.

Educational Reconstruction

A Subcommittee on Educational Reconstruction was appointed. It reported:

1. Recognizing the urgent necessity of the spiritual as well as the physical rehabilitation of the Jews of Europe, the Subcommittee suggests that each delegation should appoint one of its members to make himself personally responsible for establishing contact with the various religious and educational organizations of his country, with a view to having called in the near future an international conference for the purpose of making plans for the reconstruction of Jewish education and the revival of Jewish learning in Europe.
2. Mr. Braunschvig (Alliance Israélite Universelle, 45, Rue de la Bruyère, Paris) has kindly undertaken to circulate suggestions as to the preparatory material which might facilitate the deliberations of this conference. The delegates chosen as indicated above are expected themselves to enter into correspondence with Mr. Braunschvig, informing him of the proper persons or groups in their respective countries to be associated with the convening of the conference.

The Program Committee wholeheartedly endorses the proposed conference on the reconstruction of Jewish education and the revival of Jewish learning.

War Orphans

A Subcommittee on War Orphans was also appointed. Its report reads as follows:

The Committee believes—

1. That steps should be taken with the government of each coun-

try to ensure that Jewish war orphans are retained in or returned to homes where they will be brought up in their traditional environment.

2. That governments be requested to consider the possibility of taking under their care foreign war orphans resident in their countries in like manner as for their nationals, as has been done in France.
3. That Jewish institutions encourage the adoption of these children by families, or assist in their emigration to countries where they have relatives or friends.
4. That emigration to Palestine or other countries prepared to accept these children should be encouraged in the event of their not being cared for either by private persons or by governments.
5. That a comprehensive list be made of Jewish war orphans or abandoned children.

The Program Committee concurs in these recommendations.

Restitution and Compensation

The Conference considered the problem of restitution and compensation. It noted with regret that in many countries legislation nullifying Nazi expropriation and granting to the Jews the right to recover their property is not being implemented as had been expected. Many of the problems of restitution and compensation are still awaiting solution. The property of the Jews who have died without heirs and of Jewish communities which have disappeared should be used for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Jewish communities of the respective countries.

The Conference discussed the problem of compensation in enemy countries, and the question of assets in Allied countries held by Jews considered as enemy nationals. All these matters require further study based on a thorough knowledge of international law as well as of the municipal laws of the respective countries.

The Final Act of the Paris Reparations Conference has recognized that the victims of concentration camps should receive about thirty million dollars in reparation. While the opinion was generally expressed in the Conference that this sum is entirely inadequate and completely in disproportion to the sufferings and losses of those victims, it was felt that this money must be utilized in the most constructive manner. It was therefore suggested that the qualified Jewish organizations should make specific recommendations as to the best utilization of the sum allotted. A Subcommittee on Restitution and Reparations submitted the following suggestions:

1. That the qualified Jewish organizations of the United States, Great Britain, France, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, countries which have been requested to consider in consultation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees the utilization of funds reserved for the victims of Nazi persecution—should intervene with the delegates of their respective governments and ask that as soon as funds are made available to the Reparations Committee, priority should be given to the victims of concentration camps.
2. That Jewish organizations in the countries represented on the Reparations Committee should intervene with their respective governments to reconsider an increase of the amount reserved for the victims of concentration camps.
3. That the main Jewish relief and rehabilitation organizations consider the coordination and furtherance of the projects to be submitted to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees concerning the utilization of the funds reserved by the Reparations Conference for the victims of concentration camps.
4. That the qualified Jewish organizations of the United States, Great Britain and France, intervene with their respective governments so that instructions be given to the American, English and French representatives on the Inter-Allied Commission in Berlin to authorize all the interested governments to intervene in matters of restitution of property now in Germany and Austria on behalf of foreigners residing in their territories in like manner as for their own nationals.
5. That in matters of Jewish communal property in Germany and Austria a committee composed of representatives of the Jewish community approved by the military authorities be set up in each zone of occupation, such committee to be responsible for the administration of these properties until final disposition has been determined.
6. That in order to facilitate the restitution of Jewish religious and cultural objects, Jewish experts should be attached to Command Headquarters in each zone of occupation of Germany and Austria with a view to safeguarding art treasures and objects of religious and cultural interest. These experts should be chosen by the military authorities from a list to be submitted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Furthermore, that all collections be restored to the original owners, whether individuals or institutions, where they can be traced; and that where the original owner or his successor in title cannot be traced or where the institution from which the

material was taken has ceased to exist, the materials be deposited in trust with a Jewish community or institution competent to receive it or, in default, with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

7. That in countries where there is important property formerly belonging to victims of anti-Jewish persecutions who are missing as a result of Nazi persecution, and which is now ownerless, the governments of these countries should for reasons of equity and humanity place all or part of such property at the disposal of the Jewish communities or Jewish relief and rehabilitation organizations of those countries.

The subcommittee recommends that intervention be undertaken when these governments are already in possession of this property.

8. That an order be given by the interested military authorities that all transfer of movable goods or real estate from a Jew to a non-Jew in Germany after February 1933, should be considered void, permitting the Jewish owner to reclaim his property without compensation, even if the property was subsequently acquired by the present owner in good faith.

The Fight Against Anti-Semitism

The Conference has devoted special attention to the problem of combating anti-Semitism. The international aspects of anti-Semitism were presented, and reports of the position in the several countries were received from various delegations. A special conference of experts and persons working in the defense field in various countries was held in conjunction with the Conference.

A number of points were stressed in these discussions, always with due regard to local conditions in, and the differences between, the various countries. It was stressed that the work of combating anti-Semitism should be carefully and effectively organized in each country where anti-Semitism exists; that anti-Semitism should be presented to the public in terms of the welfare of the people as a whole and the interests of each segment of the population. It should be a matter not of Jews demanding or pleading for tolerance, but of Jews and non-Jews together fighting a common enemy.

It was also pointed out that the false picture of the Jew sometimes found to exist in the public mind must be destroyed and an attempt made to substitute a true picture of the Jew as an asset to the community, and it was suggested that whenever possible the opportunity should be taken to enlist in the fight against anti-Semitism all avail-

able forces, including journalists, public figures, clergy, labor groups and other molders of public opinion.

After careful deliberation the special conference on anti-Semitism presented the following proposal:

A central service should be created to act as a clearinghouse of information on anti-Semitic activities, and as a center for extending aid and disseminating ideas on methods and techniques for the handling of such problems. It is recommended that a committee be designated to work out the details.

The Displaced Persons

Probably the most serious immediate matter facing Jews today is that of the displaced persons in Germany and Austria. The general feeling was that the solution of the problem can be found only in the prompt evacuation of the displaced persons from Germany and Austria and their immediate resettlement in the countries to which they wish to go. The desire of the majority of these Jews to go to Palestine points to the opening of the gates of Palestine as the prime factor in the solution of their problem. We had the privilege of receiving reports from a representative of the Jewish community in Germany and a representative of the displaced persons describing the unbearable conditions in which those victims of Nazi oppression are still forced to live.

The Subcommittee on the Displaced Persons made the following proposals:

Whereas the rehabilitation of victims of concentration camps at present in displaced persons centers in Germany and Austria is completely impossible as long as they are in the countries where they have been subjected to the most inhuman treatment, and in which their relatives have been exterminated;

Whereas it is therefore urgent to find as soon as possible countries for their reception, considering that the majority of the displaced persons desire to go to Palestine, that some would like to emigrate to the United States and others to Canada, Australia and several other countries;

The Committee therefore recommends that the qualified Jewish organizations continue strenuously their efforts to obtain the opening of Palestine for the immediate immigration of all displaced persons who wish to settle there and take the necessary steps with the different countries of immigration in order to establish an expeditious procedure for their admission.

Migration

The Conference realized that others besides the displaced persons will require resettlement and emigration outside Europe. In discussing the problem of migration, the difficulties and the obstacles put to the free movement of people was stressed. Most of the countries of potential immigration have imposed restrictions for the purpose of preventing any large-scale immigration, and in some instances those restrictions are especially designed to discriminate against Jews. While some of the delegates felt that, in spite of those restrictions, some opportunities for immigration to extra-European and even European countries should still be possible, and that proper preparations should be made for such an eventuality, others believed that no such immigration facilities should be sought, except to Palestine. Consequently the Subcommittee on Migration presented the following report:

The members of the Subcommittee on Migration unanimously agree that a study on the possibilities of immigration to countries other than Palestine would not prejudice any decision on the question of Palestine. On the question of facilitating immigration to such countries, the opinion of some members was that the question was not real and that, in addition, efforts should be directed exclusively towards immigration into Palestine. Other members, however, agreed on the following proposals:

1. The United Nations should be urged:
 - a. To obtain the opening of the doors of potential countries of immigration without discrimination between Jews and non-Jews;
 - b. To obtain for those refugees—Jewish and non-Jewish—who have temporary right of sojourn in countries which have given asylum, permission to reside permanently in those countries and permission to work;
 - c. To establish a body which would be concerned with the financing of emigration and the settlement of the immigrants in their new home.
2. The major Jewish organizations specializing in the field of migration, colonization and retraining should offer their technical services to the governmental or intergovernmental bodies concerned with the problem.
3. These organizations should use every means at their disposal to prepare the prospective emigration facilities, and explore the possibilities of settlement in the potential countries of immigration.

Palestine

In the discussion on Palestine delegates representing many different points of view had full opportunity to express their respective opinions. There was general agreement on the necessity of the reopening of Palestine to large-scale Jewish immigration and the removal of the existing restrictions on the sale, purchase and development of land. While the discussion reflected the various approaches to the Palestine problem it was generally agreed that there was enough common ground to encourage the hope of effective and fruitful cooperation between Zionists and non-Zionists in the attainment of those objectives desired by all.

The Peace Treaties

An immediate problem arises in connection with the peace conference at which the peace treaties with the former enemy countries, especially with Italy, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, will be concluded. Our Conference had the privilege of being advised on that question by distinguished international lawyers. They pointed out that an opportunity is offered in connection with the peace treaties to guarantee and implement in the former enemy countries equality of rights for all, including the Jews.

Many complex technical problems arise in this connection, and it was felt that specific recommendations should be made as to the most practical and effective methods for such implementation and that careful and intense study is still necessary in connection with each particular treaty. Consequently, the Subcommittee on Peace Treaties reported as follows:

The Subcommittee expresses the wish that the Anglo-Jewish Association appoint a group of jurists to study the necessary additions to the peace treaty proposals of the American Jewish Committee. They should devise means for the practical enforcement of the American proposals.

It will be necessary that they correspond or meet with continental jurists. Each peace treaty should be examined separately, and in each should be specified those specific points on which it is desirable to make representations.

The Protection of Human Rights

The Conference heard with pleasure the report with regard to the insertion of the provisions on human rights in the United Nations' Charter. A Commission on Human Rights has been established by the

Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and it was the general opinion of the Conference that only an effective world organization based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms could, in the long run, guarantee the rights of minorities, including Jews. Judaism has always been the exponent of democratic ways of life. Only under such a system, it was pointed out, can we live in dignity both as human beings and as Jews. When the view was expressed at the Conference that democracy had failed and that the Jews could no longer rely on it for the protection of their lives and rights, the conviction was expressed by others that this was no time to despair and that the answer was not less democracy, but more democracy. Moreover, it was pointed out that the need to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms for Jewish communities could not be satisfied with the provisions of the Charter, which was only the first step in the right direction. The Jewish communities ought to work to make human rights and fundamental freedoms part of the constitutions of their respective countries, and to gain the support of these countries for an International Bill of Rights which, through the United Nations, would effectively guarantee human rights and if necessary provide sanctions against their violation.

Conclusion

Thus, during a week of deliberation, the Conference has discussed what seems to us the most important and pressing problems of present-day Jewish life. This summary report of the Program Committee can give only a general outline of the opinions and views, thought, and feelings of the delegates of the various Jewish communities. Now that this first exchange of views is concluded, much more remains to be done, and our first experience makes us confident that our continued cooperation and collaboration will yield gratifying results in the interest of all our communities. We came to London with various experiences and backgrounds. Some of us have directly suffered from the onslaught of Hitlerism and its satellites, others have been spared most of the ravages of war, but feel the tragedy in our souls. We have, in spite of this, succeeded in establishing a most friendly and cooperative spirit and will continue to work together for the benefit of our fellow Jews and of the whole world. The Anglo-Jewish Association and the American Jewish Committee have agreed, if the communities so desire, to act as a clearinghouse of information and exchange of ideas. They will undertake to convoke and organize the meetings on special problems which some of the subcommittees of this Conference have suggested. If any participant has other problems of importance for which it desires the cooperation or the assistance

and advice of the other Jewish communities, we hope that it will not hesitate to communicate either with the Anglo-Jewish Association or with the London office of the American Jewish Committee, with a copy sent to the other. They will—if so desired—transmit these communications to all the other communities which are willing to cooperate on a friendly and constructive basis.

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